Procedure for IRB Policy II

GUST Student Class Assignments/Projects.

Course instructors sometimes conduct activities that involve “human participants” but do not meet the definition of “research”. Those who do engage in this practice, and their students, must be aware of and understand their responsibilities in a class assignment/project involving “human participants”. Course instructors are ultimately responsible for assuring that human participants’ rights and welfare are not violated and for students’ ethical behavior in conducting an assignment/project. Students must take personal responsibility and be accountable for their actions as well. The course instructor must personally evaluate each class assignment/project and provide supervision and guidance during its execution.

Course instructors should ensure the following when evaluating a class assignment/project and advising a student on the conduct of the activities:

- The purpose of the proposed project and procedures are practicable and have merit;
- The human subjects recruitment process does not unfairly target a particular population without proper and pre-approved justification;
- “Human participants”, including those with diminished autonomy (e.g., children, people with limited ability to make decisions), will be treated with respect;
- The privacy of the “human participant” and confidentiality of any data that they provide will be protected;
- The potential risks to individuals will be minimized; and
- The data collected from “human participants” do not contain identifiable private information not required to complete a class assignment/project.

The RDO strongly prefers that class projects/assignments carried out by students which may place individuals at more than minimal risk* and involve a vulnerable population NOT be conducted. However, if a class assignment/project unavoidably involves more than minimal risk and a vulnerable population, and the course instructor supports the assignment/project, the course instructor MUST contact the RDO for advice and guidance before the initiation of the assignment/project. In such rare instances, the class assignment/project may require review and approval by the IRB. Examples of vulnerable populations include children or adolescents, pregnant women, prisoners, people who are mentally disabled or those with impaired decision-making capacity, or human in vitro fertilization. If a class assignment/project must be reviewed by the IRB, the principal investigator listed on the IRB application must be the student’s research advisor or course instructor. The student may be listed as a co-investigator.